

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 – 10 and 12 – 32 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 19, 20, 27, 29 and 30 have been amended. Claim 33 has been cancelled and claim 11 was previously cancelled. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Examiner Interview

The undersigned and Assignee's representative, Christoph Weis, conducted an in-person interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor, Len Tran at the U.S.P.T.O. on April 27, 2009. During the interview, amendments to the claims were discussed in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,730,768 to Nelson. Additionally, a sample of the claimed component was shown. The sample was disassembled to show the various claimed features, which were discussed with the Examiner.

The undersigned and Assignee's representative wish to thank the Examiner and Supervisor Tran for the courtesies extended during the interview. If the Examiner believes that a further interview, either telephonically or in person, will help to resolve any potential issues in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claim 9 was rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

The corrective amendment to claim 9 obviates the rejection under §112.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 18, 21, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,730,786 to Nelson.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a jet regulator, having a flow inlet side and a flow outlet side. The jet regulator includes a mounting housing, divided into first and second housing parts. The first and second housing parts are releasably connectable via a snap-fit connection with one another. The jet regulator also includes a jet fractionating device, having through flow holes, located inside the mounting housing and the first housing part, having a peripheral shoulder, at the flow inlet side is connected fixedly and non-detachably with the jet fractionating device. Also included is a jet regulating device, having at least one insert part that is insertable into the mounting housing. The at least one insert part has webs that

are oriented transverse to a flow direction and that delimit between them through-flow openings. The webs of the at least one insert part are disposed in the manner of a grid or a net, intersecting at intersect nodes. The jet regulating device and a flow rectifier, having flow guide walls that define exit openings arranged in a plane, are arranged, downstream from the jet fractionating device, at the flow outlet side.

Applicant has amended claim 1 in accordance with suggestions from Supervisor Tran, namely the addition of the term “snap-fit” as well as defining the peripheral shoulder to better define over prior art of record. Applicant has further amended claim 1 to better distinguish the flow rectifier as having flow guide walls defining exit openings arranged in a plane. As was discussed and demonstrated in the interview, Nelson does not show this feature since the device of Nelson has a woven sieve at its output. The snap-fit arrangement of amended claim 1 provides better tolerances than the press fit of Nelson and is less expensive to manufacture.

Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 – 10, 12 – 18, 21, 32 and 33 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 19, 20 and 22 - 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Nelson, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,152,182 to Grether et al.

Applicant: Hermann Grether
Application No.: 10/523,574

Claims 27 – 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Nelson, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,588,682 to Flieger.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

Claims 19, 20 and 22 - 31 are dependent upon claim 1, which the Applicant believes is allowable over the cited prior art of record for the at least the reasons provided above. Furthermore, claims 19 and 20 have been amended to include the term in a single plane to further distinguish over Applicant's own '182 patent.

Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, withdrawal of the Section 103(b) rejection of claims 19, 20 and 22 – 31 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 – 10 and 12 – 32, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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